

## The Importance of Vocational Education in Employment: A Study on the Students of Food and Beverage Management

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**Abstract:** *The service sector is made up of industries that require vigorous efforts. Therefore a labor force that is equipped with theoretical knowledge and application skills makes great contributions to the quality of businesses, since individuals' attaining professional competence is greatly contributed to by the education which they received in school and are strengthened by the practices at work. Food and beverage management departments have given undergraduate education since 2005 in Turkey in order to meet the demands for qualified managers in food and beverage businesses in the service sector. This study aims to determine the working conditions of the students of food and beverage management in the sector throughout their education. The study included 145 undergraduate students. The number of students working in bars increases with grade and the students who had education in the kitchen department of vocational high schools had the highest number of students working in the kitchen in the sector. The working period of men were determined to be higher and the students who did not receive vocational education in high school were determined to have shorter working periods. The study concluded that the students had working experiences in different departments of sector throughout their education and businesses are inclined to employ individuals with educational backgrounds in this field.*

**Keywords:** *Service sector, tourism, employment, vocational education.*

